

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)
AND
THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)**

The World Organization for Animal Health intergovernmental organization having its Headquarters at 12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France, duly represented by its Director General, Dr. Bernard Vallat,

hereinafter referred to as "the OIE",

of the first part,

and

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), an International Organization established by Treaty with its Secretariat located at Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Republic of Guyana, duly represented by its Secretary-General, HE Ambassador Irwin LaRocque

hereinafter referred to as "CARICOM", of the other part,

(Hereinafter both referred to as the Parties)

WHEREAS :

- the development of animal production relies on improvement of animal health through the prevention and the control of animal diseases and zoonoses, as well as on strengthening the disease information system;
- the development of trade in animals and animal products calls for the creation of an appropriate legislative and regulatory environment, by drawing up relevant regulations;
- the effort of the Veterinary Services is a key factor for the application of health measures and for safeguarding public health;

And CONSIDERING that

- one of the OIE's main objectives is to collect and disseminate information on the world-wide occurrence of animal diseases, and on disease prevention and control methods;
- the OIE is recognized as the reference Organization by the World Trade Organization (WTO) for international animal health standards which regulate the international trade in animals and animal products;
- the mandate of the OIE has been enlarged for animal production food safety and animal welfare;
- the OIE has the objective of cooperating with the Member Countries including through the Regional Commission for the Americas with the support of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas ;

and CONSIDERING that

- CARICOM has a treaty mandate to establish an effective regime of sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures;
- CARICOM convenes a forum for discussions among the Chief Veterinary Officers of the Region;
- CARICOM recently established a Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) which is mandated to develop and coordinate programmes for the prevention, control and eradication of diseases and pests in its member and associate member countries: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands;
- CARICOM may conclude cooperation agreements with international organizations to further its goals and mandate;

The Parties have agreed as follows

Article 1

The object and purpose of this Agreement is to collaborate to prevent the spread of animal diseases, to improve the animal health and to harmonize regulations for trade in animals and animal products in CARICOM countries.

Article 2

The Parties agree to sign the current Agreement in order to contribute more effectively to fulfilling their mutual interests and objectives by means of technical cooperation.

Article 3

The OIE and CARICOM shall cooperate in the following fields, although this list does not preclude further activities that help to achieve their objectives:

- Harmonisation of legislation and regulations on animal diseases and zoonoses;
- Technical cooperation in the field of animal health and zoonoses;
- Exchange of scientific information, dissemination of publications and work programmes;
- Strengthening the region's epidemiological surveillance systems;
- Dissemination of the OIE health information system on the occurrence of animal diseases and zoonoses;
- Organisation of meetings, seminars, courses and training days for both Official Veterinary Services and the private veterinary sector;
- Organisation of meetings and seminars on OIE standards and guidelines;
- Disseminating and promoting the development of OIE standards and guidelines;
- Disseminating and promoting the application of the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes and Manuals;
- Strengthening the Veterinary Services, taking into account OIE standards for Veterinary Service evaluation and quality, by supporting the organization of short courses, self-assessment, tools for public and private stakeholders as well as education and training activities.

Article 4

Within the framework of its assistance activities, the OIE, as the international reference organization, shall provide CARICOM with available international expertise.

Article 5

CARICOM undertakes to support the OIE by making available resources and officials for any tasks that are undertaken, as far as its technical and economic means allow, and to appoint a contact person responsible for technical relations with the OIE including its Regional Representation for the Americas. Separate arrangements will be agreed biannually for activities to be carried out in collaboration.

Article 6

The Parties shall inform one another about the development and progress of activities of mutual interest and shall regularly exchange information and documents on the said activities which are not subject to confidentiality restrictions.

Article 7

The Parties shall invite one another's representatives to participate in open meetings to which observers are admitted, in accordance with the Organisations' normal practices and when matters of mutual interest are to be considered.

Article 8

The OIE shall provide CARICOM with its publications catalogue, to enable CARICOM to order and distribute publications at preferential rates. The OIE and CARICOM shall exchange documents of mutual interest free of charge.

Article 9

The Parties agree to hold periodic meetings on aspects relating to the performance of this Agreement and may, by mutual consent, propose new means for improving its efficiency. The channels of communication shall be established between the Executive Heads of the two organizations or their designated representatives and between the OIE Regional Representative and Executive Director of CAHFSA.

The designated representative for CARICOM shall be the Assistant Secretary-General for Trade and Economic Integration.

Article 10

The Parties agree not to use in any press release, memo, report or other published disclosure related to this Agreement any of the other Parties' name and logo without prior written agreement by the party concerned.

Article 11

This Agreement shall enter into force once signed by the Parties and shall be of indefinite duration. It may be amended by mutual consent and terminated by either of the Parties subject to six months' notice in writing.

Article 12

Any dispute between CARICOM and OIE arising out of the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled by negotiation between the Parties.

Date : 16 November 2012

For the Caribbean Community

H.E. Ambassador Irwin LaRocque

Secretary General

For the World Organisation for Animal Health

Doctor Bernard Vallat

Director General